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**From:** Guerrero, Carmen [/O=EXCHANGELABS/OU=EXCHANGE ADMINISTRATIVE GROUP (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=5CA33D0466A54184A34D8951C512D393-GUERRERO, C]  
**Sent:** 12/13/2016 10:13:08 AM  
**To:** Vargas, Melissa [/o=ExchangeLabs/ou=Exchange Administrative Group (FYDIBOHF23SPDLT)/cn=Recipients/cn=e3bcc3f8f0274bda80e4832f881f75e8-Vargas, Mel]  
**Subject:** FW: POLITICALLY MOTIVATED PROTESTS DISTRACT FROM REAL THREAT OF TOXIC LANDFILLS

Saludos Melissa! Thanks for arranging today's meeting. I am copying you a number of press releases recently sent by Puerto Rico Limpio for your reference, just in case you had not received them.

Currently in Puerto Rico, there is a major discussion on the disposal of ashes/coal combustion residuals (CCRs) from the only coal plant established in the island, AES Puerto Rico, which has been in operation since 2002. AES' CCRs are currently disposed in RCRA Subtitle D compliant landfills, but many community groups and environmental and health entities have established a Coalition to block the entrance of trucks with AES ashes into local landfills in protest to this practice.

These are Puerto Rico Limpio's statements regarding this situation (see below).

Thanks,  
Carmen

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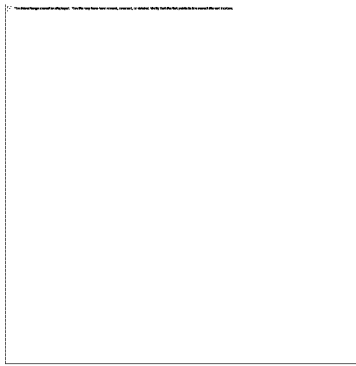
**From:** Mears, Mary  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 3:26 PM  
**To:** Enck, Judith ; Plevin, Lisa ; McCabe, Catherine ; LaPosta, Dore ; Simon, Paul ; Guerrero, Carmen  
**Subject:** FW: POLITICALLY MOTIVATED PROTESTS DISTRACT FROM REAL THREAT OF TOXIC LANDFILLS

FYI

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**From:** Puerto Rico Limpio [<mailto:info=puertoricolimpio.org@mail155.atl221.rsgsv.net>] **On Behalf Of** Puerto Rico Limpio  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 29, 2016 1:14 PM  
**To:** Mears, Mary <[Mears.Mary@epa.gov](mailto:Mears.Mary@epa.gov)>  
**Subject:** POLITICALLY MOTIVATED PROTESTS DISTRACT FROM REAL THREAT OF TOXIC LANDFILLS



PRESS RELEASE: November 29, 2016

## **POLITICALLY MOTIVATED PROTESTS DISTRACT FROM REAL THREAT OF TOXIC LANDFILLS**

***“Where were these activists when I needed them in Toa Alta?”  
asks neighbor of toxic municipal landfill that remains open today***

(SAN JUAN, P.R. – November 29, 2016) The recent protests by the Puerto Rican Independence Party and supporters like Carmen Yulin against the disposal of coal ash is a distraction from the proven scourge of 20 toxic landfills endangering poor communities all over Puerto Rico. To the citizens in Puerto Rico Limpio, who have fought against non-compliant landfills poisoning their communities for years, these political leaders and their movements have turned a blind eye to their suffering.

“The actions of Maria de Lourdes Santiago and Carmen Yulin have distracted and undermined efforts to close as many as 20 toxic, illegal landfills that have violated Puerto Rican and federal law for decades,” said Hiram Torres Montalvo, co-founder of Puerto Rico Limpio. “These protests are entirely political, and have nothing to do with saving the environment or cleaning up our communities.”

Recently, Puerto Rico Limpio [outlined a 4-point plan to close the toxic landfills](#) in a letter to the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico

on September 2, 2016. Puerto Rico Limpio's 4-point plan focuses on: 1) revoking the permitting authority of the Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board (EQB); 2) closing toxic dumps immediately; 3) repurposing closed landfills for conversion to better uses, like clean, sustainable energy alternatives like solar and wind generation; and 4) adopting a plan for full compliance. Unfortunately, neither Maria de Lourdes Santiago and Carmen Yulin or their pro-Independence supporters have supported our efforts.

"I have watched everyone in our neighborhood abandon their houses as the toxic landfill got bigger and the contamination got worse," said Concetta "Connie" Calise Cintron, resident of Toa Alta. "Where were these activists when I needed them here? The Toa Alta landfill is still open this morning and not one of them has ever been here to help us."

"How can so many politicians in Puerto Rico waste their time and energy protesting when my family and our community can hardly live by the polluted landfill at Toa Baja?" decried Candelaria, Toa Baja resident Adelaida Gonzalez who recently hosted US Congressman Luis V. Gutiérrez (D-IL) for a community meeting seeking attention for Puerto Rico's toxic landfill crisis. "Maria de Lourdes and Carmen Yulin do not represent poor communities like Candelaria; they represent themselves."

"I have been fighting the government for years to close Toa Alta landfill, but there is so much corruption and politicians here have just ignored us," said Calise Cintron. "I pray Ricardo Rossello closes these landfills where real pollution is happening."

**To read the full report, "The Poisoning of Puerto Rico", and see the internal EPA documents obtained for the report, visit:**

[www.puertoricolimpio.org/the-poisoning-of-puerto-rico/?lang=en](http://www.puertoricolimpio.org/the-poisoning-of-puerto-rico/?lang=en)

**To read Puerto Rico Limpio's submission to the Congressional Task Force on Economic Growth in Puerto Rico (in English), visit:**

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<http://puertoricolimpio.org/wp-content/uploads/2016/09/PRLimpio-Submission-to-Task-Force.pdf>

**To learn more about Puerto Rico Limpio, its mission and important information about dangerous, non-compliant landfills, go to:**

**[PuertoRicoLimpio.org](http://PuertoRicoLimpio.org), Puerto Rico Limpio on [Facebook](#), or follow us on**

**Twitter: [@PRLimpioOrg](#).**

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